

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A sliding door device for an air-conditioning system comprising:

a sliding door that moves so as to intersect an air flow path and is used to control an air flow rate or an air direction within said air flow path;

wherein two ends of said sliding door each constitute a sliding unit inserted at and moves within a guide groove at an air-conditioner case; and

wherein said sliding unit includes a tension applying means for applying tension between said sliding unit and said guide groove;

the sliding unit ~~comprises~~ includes a projected portion and a recessed portion disposed apart from the projected portion, both of which are formed in a sliding direction of the sliding door, the projected portion extending partially along a first longitudinal axis and the recessed portion extending partially along a second longitudinal axis extending parallel to the first longitudinal axis, the projected portion and the recessed portion being connected to one another,

the tension applying means is formed on the projected portion and comprises a non-contact projection that projects from the projected portion and has a clearance from an inner surface of the guide groove, a point contact projection that comes into contact with the inner surface of the guide groove and a tension bridge, the tension bridge being supported by the non-contact projection-projected portion and supports and the point contact projection being supported by the tension bridge thereby applying tension against the inner surface of the guide groove,

wherein the non-contact projection is substantially circular, the tension bridge is flat and is surrounded by the non-contact projection and the point contact projection is formed at the center of the tension bridge.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) A sliding door device for an air-conditioning system according to claim 1, wherein: said clearance is set equal to or less than 1 mm.

5. (Previously Presented) A sliding door device for an air-conditioning system according to claim 1, wherein: said point contact projection is supported at a tension bridge formed over an area surrounded by the non-contact projection.

6. - 34. (Canceled)